Dropouts in Andhra Pradesh

727. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of drop out children in Andhra Pradesh is increasing every year;

(b) if so, what are the progressive details of drop out children of classes 5th to 8th in the State during the last three years;

(c) whether Centre and State Governments have formulated some schemes to enroll these dropout children in some institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per the information made available by Government of Andhra Pradesh, there is no discernible increasing or decreasing trend every year; the number of dropout has been fluctuating.

(b) The dropout rates (5th to 8th Class) in Andhra Pradesh State during the last three years are as under:—

1996-97	39.79%
1997-98	41.33%
1998-99	40.08%

(c) and (d) The Central and State Governments have launched a number of schemes/programmes which *inter-alia* aims at reducing drop out rates and to take care of drop out children. These include District Primary Education Programme, Operation Blackboard Scheme, Non-Formal Education Programme, Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education etc. Besides these schemes, State Government is also organising Summer Schools and back to school camps.